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invention for decreasing skin irritation when used with analgesic agents that may cause skin irritation, such as salicylic acid. Referring to Table 6, two formulations containing salicylic acid, a common ingredient in topical cosmetic creams and lotions, were applied to the faces of seven human volunteers. A measured amount (2 grams) of each material was applied by the subjects. Formula 1 was applied to the right side of the face and Formula 2 was applied to the left side. (center line was the bridge of the nose). Each subject was examined for signs and symptoms of irritation and inflammation after one hour on both sides of the face. The ingredients and approximate amounts of the ingredients used are listed below.

TABLE 7

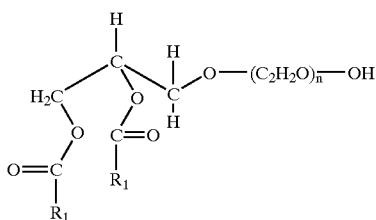
Formula 1		Formula 2	
Purified water	95%	Purified water	85%
Salicylic Acid	5%	Salicylic acid	5%
PEG-23 Glyceryl Dimyristate	0%	PEG-23 Glyceryl Dimyristate	10%

The left side of the face in all subjects showed little, or no signs of irritation and inflammation, while the right side showed redness, inflamed areas, roughness and raised areas. After two hours the left side had no further signs of irritation while the right side maintained the existing signs and symptoms.

While a number of embodiments of the invention have been described, it is apparent that the methods and compounds of the invention described may be modified to provide other embodiments of the invention. Therefore, the scope of this invention is to be defined by the appended claims rather than by the specific embodiments, which have been presented by way of example.

What is claimed is:

1. A lipid compound represented by the formula



wherein R_1 is a long chain fatty acid, R_2 is a long chain fatty acid chain between 11 and 25 carbons in length, and wherein the variable "n" is an integer between 11 and 46, and

wherein said compound is characterized by the ability to inhibit biological activity of phospholipase A_2 .

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is further characterized by the ability to inhibit biological activity of phospholipase A_2 in vitro at concentrations less than or equal to 1% by volume.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is characterized by the ability to inhibit biological activity of cyclooxygenase-2.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein said R_1 long chain fatty acid is between 11 and 25 carbons in length.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein said R_2 long chain fatty acid is between 11 and 25 carbons in length.

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6. The compound of claim 1, wherein the variable "n" is an integer between 11 and 46.

7. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 represents a long chain fatty acid selected from the group consisting of:

- $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}(CH_2)_2(CH_2)_7$, and
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{14}$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{16}$.

8. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_2 represents a long chain fatty acid selected from the group consisting of:

- $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}(CH_2)_2(CH_2)_7$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{14}$, and
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{16}$.

9. The compound of claim 1, wherein the variable "n" is an integer between 11 and 46, and wherein R_1 and R_2 each represent a long chain fatty acid selected from the group consisting of:

- $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}(CH_2)_2(CH_2)_7$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}$,
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{14}$, and
- $CH_3(CH_2)_{16}$.

10. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 23, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}$.

11. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 12, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}(CH_2)_2(CH_2)_7$.

12. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 23, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}(CH_2)_2(CH_2)_7$.

13. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 45, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{10}(CH_2)_2(CH_2)_7$.

14. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 12, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}$.

15. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 23, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}$.

16. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 45, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{12}$.

17. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 23, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{14}$.

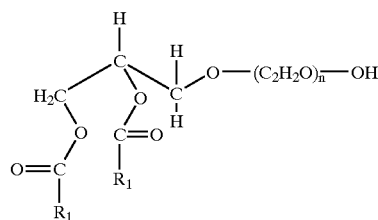
18. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 45, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{14}$.

19. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 12, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{16}$.

20. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 23, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{16}$.

21. The compound of claim 1, wherein "n" is 45, and R_1 and R_2 are $CH_3(CH_2)_{16}$.

22. A composition of matter comprising one or more lipids having the formula



wherein R_1 is a long chain fatty acid chain between 11 and 25 carbons in length, R_2 is a long chain fatty acid chain between 11 and 25 carbons in length, and wherein the variable "n" is an integer between 11 and 46, and